



RESOLUTION

EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO THE THREE WINNERS ON THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON YOUTH RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY MURAL PROJECT

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Five

RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua

Congratulations from Mayor Bernard A. Streeter and the Board of Alderman are hereby extended to Alyssa Wheeler, Janail Archer, and Audra Summers, the three winners on the Mayor's Task Force on Youth, for winning the Community Mural Project.

The Mayor's Task Force on Youth consists of youth and adults who are committed to promoting a healthy environment for Nashua's youth. They do this by providing support, education, advocacy, security and leadership opportunities to youth by working with families, youth, schools, community agencies, local businesses, and government.

The Mayor's Task Force on Youth chose a Community Mural Project as their main focus for 2004/2005. They secured a private business, Ferman's Fabrics, located at 43 West Hollis Street, to let them paint a mural on the wall of the business. This business was sought out due to its location. The back of the building faces Nashua's Rail Trail, which the Mayor's Task Force had a part in restoring. The Mayor's Task Force had a role in planting flowers and trees, in cleaning the area, and generally made the space usable and inviting.

They held a contest which invited young people residing in the Greater Nashua area to submit designs for the mural. In keeping with the location, the theme of the designs focused on the history of the rail trail and its role in developing local commerce in Nashua. Entries were accepted until April 1, 2005 at which point the judges (the business owner Mr. Ferman, a youth from the Mayor's Task Force, the art director at Rivier College Mr. Cliff Davis, and Alderman Marc Plamondon) decided on the three top winning designs. The execution of the mural itself was completed by local youth groups and community members who were supervised by two professional artists, as well as college level art students.

There were several goals for this project. Of most importance, the Mural Project facilitated youth and adults working together to better the community. It allowed young people to develop skills in the area of leadership and community organizing, and they gained an understanding of the steps involved in completing a community project of this scale. This opportunity not only provided them with valuable experience, but also connected them to the art community and local government offices in Nashua which may assist them in pursuing educational and career goals.

This community project also brought together a number of organizations to work towards achieving a common goal. The neighborhood in which the mural was painted has seen a rapid increase in ethnic populations. This neighborhood and the Nashua Rail Trail is the site of a 'New Hampshire Celebrates Wellness Project' through the City Planning Department. This department is working on the 'Livable Walkable Community' project to promote safety and walkability in this neighborhood. By having the community mural in this neighborhood, community agencies will have an opportunity to outreach to young people who may not typically seek out services.

The mural was painted over the course of three days, April 16, 17, and 18. This weekend was chosen as it coincided with City Year and National Youth Service Day. This project was made possible through a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and through private and public donations.

A number of non-profit organizations came together to see this project through: Area Agency, Rivier College, Boys & Girls Club, Bridges, Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Youth Council, Livable Walkable Communities and City Year New Hampshire.

On behalf of the citizens of Nashua, Mayor Bernard A. Streeter and the Board of Aldermen express their congratulations to Alyssa Wheeler, Janail Archer, and Audra Summers for their winning designs. Their accomplishment brings pride to the City of Nashua. We wish them the best.